



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WCI Expands Community Service With First Road Crew for Garrett County

TOWSON, MD (August 26, 2008)---Western Correctional Institution (WCI) today expanded its community service inmate details, by sending out its first Garrett County road crew. The six-man team began the day at Keyser's Ridge; they will be performing cleanup and weeding work in Maryland's westernmost county.

WCI already has three similar crews assigned to Allegany County, and the prison has a longstanding commitment to help local communities clean and beautify their neighborhoods.

Thanks to a strong Master Gardening program, whose key component is the grant-funded and inmate-tended prison greenhouse, WCI has grown thousands of plants this year alone for *Let's Beautify Cumberland!* and several other local communities. The prison will supply nearly 600 plants for next week's Day of Caring and Sharing in Cumberland.

Inmate road crews, manned by pre-screened minimum- and pre-release-security level inmates and supervised by a correctional officer, save taxpayers and local communities millions of dollars annually by providing work that, in many cases, simply could not be performed by local and state agencies. The local jurisdictions typically pay a small daily fee for the service.

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) Secretary Gary Maynard has said he wishes to triple the number of inmates who work jobs throughout the system, as well as greatly expand community partnerships, which allow inmates to "pay society back" a little, which most are happy to do.

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